

THIS HAMLET WAS NO KING SIZE PERFORMANCE

BY 'NOVA'

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Dulwich Hamlet 0

WHEN a disgruntled spectator got up from his seat in Loakes Park stand and made his way to an exit with 20 minutes to go a voice behind him exclaimed, "I do not blame you sir, not one little bit."

Yes, this man was rightly so fed-up with the display put on by Wycombe and struggling Dulwich Hamlet, that he could face it no longer. But if he had stayed just a few minutes longer he might have gone home a little happier.

For in those last 25 minutes the Wanderers at last began to show a little of the power and pace that they displayed against Enfield. The ball began to flow rhythmically from defence to the forwards and Dulwich goalkeeper Les Bragg had his busiest period. But despite several magnificent saves, Wycombe added two more to double their total. Charlie Gale scored following a Beck free-kick, then after a Bassett pile-driver had been fisted out by full-back Hammond, John Beck scored from the penalty.

The first 65 minutes were tedious as Wycombe, almost arrogant, tried to win at less than half pace.

With George Pullin and Alistair Lewis both out of touch and John Cooper seeing little of the ball it was up to Dave Thomas to start the attacks. But he had little success usually being caught in possession. Once again Wycombe's main forward-line danger came

from the two wing-men Len Worley and Dave Bassett, who showed no ill effects of his recently fractured ankle. Tony Horseman also maintained his marked improvement and it was his jinxing runs and leaping headers that seemed most likely to pay dividends.

Wycombe fans having seen the opposition break away and score single goal victories so many times this season everyone was just preparing themselves for this fate when luck played its part. A scramble in the Wycombe goal-mouth resulted in Dunwoody hitting the bar. Play switched ends and from a Beck free-kick left-back John Greenan, hampered by Horseman, shot through his own net.

Within minutes Bassett gave Thomas the pass that led to Wycombe's second. One could sense that everything was now over. Evidently the fan who left at this point thought so too.

But no matter how confidently the team played during those last 25 minutes the glaring weaknesses still showed up. Charlie Gale was absolutely wasted at centre-forward.